

Public Law 101-143  
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

Nov. 8, 1989

[H.J. Res. 131]

To designate May 25, 1989, as "National Tap Dance Day".

Whereas the multifaceted art form of tap dancing is a manifestation of the cultural heritage of our Nation, reflecting the fusion of African and European cultures into an exemplification of the American spirit, that should be, through documentation, and archival and performance support, transmitted to succeeding generations;

Whereas tap dancing has had a historic and continuing influence on other genres of American art, including music, vaudeville, Broadway musical theater, and film, as well as other dance forms;

Whereas tap dancing is perceived by the world as a uniquely American art form;

Whereas tap dancing is a joyful and powerful aesthetic force providing a source of enjoyment and an outlet for creativity and self-expression for Americans on both the professional and amateur level;

Whereas it is in the best interest of the people of our Nation to preserve, promote, and celebrate this uniquely American art form;

Whereas Bill "Bojangles" Robinson made an outstanding contribution to the art of tap dancing on both stage and film through the unification of diverse stylistic and racial elements; and

Whereas May 25, as the anniversary of the birth of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, is an appropriate day on which to refocus the attention of the Nation on American tap dancing: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That May 25, 1989, is designated "National Tap Dance Day". The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.*

Approved November 8, 1989.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 131 (S.J. Res. 53):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 135 (1989):

May 25, considered and passed House.

Oct. 27, considered and passed Senate.